

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/176,940

In the rejection of claim 1 under §102(b), the Examiner asserts that Fukushima discloses a flexible printed circuit in the form of element 28, and that Applicant's first portion of a first connector is readable on elements 30 and 60 of Fukushima.

Further, in paragraph No. 3 bridging pages 2 and 3 of the final Office Action, the Examiner disagrees that Fukushima does not teach all of the elements recited in claim 1. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the printed circuit assembly 28 of Fukushima is attached to the bottom of a stationary drum in its finished form, and that it has portions projecting therefrom, including one end that is then connected to the remote main circuit board of the recorder.

The Examiner further states that:

Applicant seems to really be saying that there is no flexible printer circuit inside the stationary drum with a connector projecting outside to connect the transformer to the main circuit board remote from the drum. (Emphasis added).

However, the Examiner maintains that the claim does not require that the flexible printed circuit be inside the stationary drum.

First, Applicant believes that the Examiner's continued rejection of claim 1 under §102(b) as being clearly anticipated is simply a strained reading of Fukushima. In particular, even though Applicant's claim 1 did not specifically require the flexible printed circuit to be disposed *inside* the stationary drum with a connector projecting outside to connect to a remote main circuit board, nowhere does the Examiner point to where Fukushima teaches a first connector coupled to *an end* of the flexible printed circuit 28. Rather, as is readily apparent from Figure 1, there is a whole series of connectors 30/60 connected between the flexible circuit board

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28 and the stator 19. In other words, it is a strained interpretation to read Applicant's "first connector coupled to an end of said flexible printed circuit for electrically connecting said flexible printed circuit to the main PCB" on the configuration of Fukushima. Moreover, it is unclear on which particular structure the Examiner is reading Applicant's "second end portion which extends beyond said through-hole and is electrically connected to a *second connector mounted to the main PCB.*" In the case of Fukushima, the opposite end of the flexible printed circuit board 28 is not even shown in the drawings, so that it is sheer speculation as to the particular connection between the opposite end of the flexible printed circuit board 28 and any main PCB.

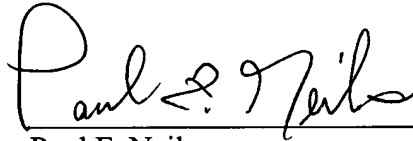
Notwithstanding the above, Applicant has further amended independent claim 1 to specify that --the flexible printed circuit 232 is disposed inside the stationary drum and has one end electrically connected to the rotary transformers ...--, and further that the main printed circuit board (PCB) is located outside the stationary drum. Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that the first end portion of the first connector is electrically connected to the opposite end of the flexible printed circuit. These claim changes are in accord with the Examiner's statement that Fukushima does not show the flexible printed circuit inside the stationary drum with a connector projecting outside therefrom.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

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